



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy*

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FILE: [REDACTED]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: SEP 07 2005

IN RE:

Petitioner:
Beneficiary: [REDACTED]

PETITION: Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as a Member of the Professions Holding an Advanced Degree or an Alien of Exceptional Ability Pursuant to Section 203(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(2)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

[REDACTED]

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Mark Johnson

✓ Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, Vermont Service Center, denied the nonimmigrant visa petition. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be rejected as untimely filed.

In order to properly file an appeal, the regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(i) provides that the affected party must file the complete appeal within 30 days of after service of the unfavorable decision. If the decision was mailed, the appeal must be filed within 33 days. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(b). The date of filing is not the date of mailing, but the date of actual receipt. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i).

The record indicates that the director issued the decision on December 22, 2004. The director properly gave notice to the petitioner that it had 33 days to file the appeal. Counsel dated the appeal January 14, 2005. The director originally received the I-290B appeal form on January 18, 2005. The form, however, was not signed, and therefore, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.2(a)(7)(i), the appeal was not properly filed. The director therefore rejected the appeal and returned the form and accompanying fee. Counsel signed the Form I-290B and remailed the appeal on January 25, 2005. The director received the appeal the next day, January 26, 2005, 35 days after the decision was issued. Accordingly, the appeal was untimely filed.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v)(B)(2) states that, if an untimely appeal meets the requirements of a motion to reopen or a motion to reconsider, the appeal must be treated as a motion, and a decision must be made on the merits of the case. The official having jurisdiction over a motion is the official who made the last decision in the proceeding, in this case the service center director. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(ii).

As the appeal was untimely filed, the appeal must be rejected.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.